Kentucky Route 762 Bridge
(Daviess County Bridge)
Kentucky Route 762, spanning South Fork
Panther Creek
Owensboro vicinity
Daviess County
Kentucky

HAER No. KY-8

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
Southeast Region
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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HAER No. KY-8

Location:	Kentucky Route 762, spanning South Fork Panther Creek, Owensboro vicinity, Daviess County, Kentucky UTM: 16.504980.4164385 Quad: Philpot, Kentucky
Date of Construction:	1897
Present Owner:	Kentucky Transportation Cabinet State Office Building Frankfort, Kentucky 40622
Present Use:	Vehicular bridge
Significance:	Good representative example of a pin-connected through truss. Only example in Kentucky built by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company (Ohio).
Project Information:	This documentation was undertaken in December 1983 in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet as a mitigative measure prior to demolition of the bridge.
Historian:	George D. Rawlings Division of Environmental Analysis Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Frankfort, Kentucky
Edited and Transmitted by:	Paul Hawke Historian Southeast Regional Office National Park Service Atlanta, Georgia 30303 November 14, 1985

The Kentucky Route 762 Bridge was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places on September 30, 1982. The bridge crosses the South Fork of Panther Creek between Daviess and Ohio counties, Kentucky. Daviess County is located in western Kentucky with the Ohio River forming its northern boundary. Kentucky Route 762 is a rural two-lane, gravel, secondary road, while Panther Creek forms the major drainage basin for Daviess County.

The Kentucky Route 762 Bridge is a one-lane metal truss bridge. The structural configuration of this truss identifies it as a Pratt through truss. The structure has six panels and is 101 feet in length and 13.5 feet in width. This bridge was constructed in 1897 by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company.

The compression members of a Pratt truss must be rigid and of sturdy construction. On the Kentucky Route 762 Daviess County Bridge, the end post and top chords are constructed of two channels, cover plate, and lacing bars. The intermediate posts are two channels and two sets of lacing bars. The tension members are less rigid bars with eyes for pin-connected panel points and are referred to as eyebars. The main tension members on the Kentucky 762 Bridge are as follows: bottom chords are two rectilinear loop-welded eyebars, hip verticals are one loop-welded round eyebar split into two at the bottom chord, diagonals are two rectilinear loop-welded eyebars, and the counters are single round loop-welded eyebars with turnbuckles for field adjustment.

The floor system of the Kentucky 762 Bridge has rolled I-beam floor beams with floor beam hangers at each panel point. Stringers between the floor beams are wood beams and I-beams. This bridge has a wood plank deck and the substructure consists of two rough cut stone abutments.

Due to its 1890s construction date, it may have been constructed of either wrought iron or steel. A stamp on the channels of some compression members identifies Jones and Laughlin Mills as a supplier of materials for bridge construction.

The "Survey of Truss, Suspension, and Arch Bridges in Kentucky," completed in January 1982, located 134 Pratt through truss bridges in the State. Seventy-eight percent of these structures, including the Kentucky Route 762 Bridge, are pin-connected. Most of the Pratt through trusses were constructed before 1920. Sixty of these trusses have identifying builder/date plates representing the work of 12 separate bridge builders or companies. The Kentucky Route 762 Bridge was constructed by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company, an innovator in metal truss bridge technology. This example is relatively late (1897), but does incorporate some distinctive elements including hip-verticals that are split in cross section to rigidly hold the bottom chord pin and floor beam hanger.